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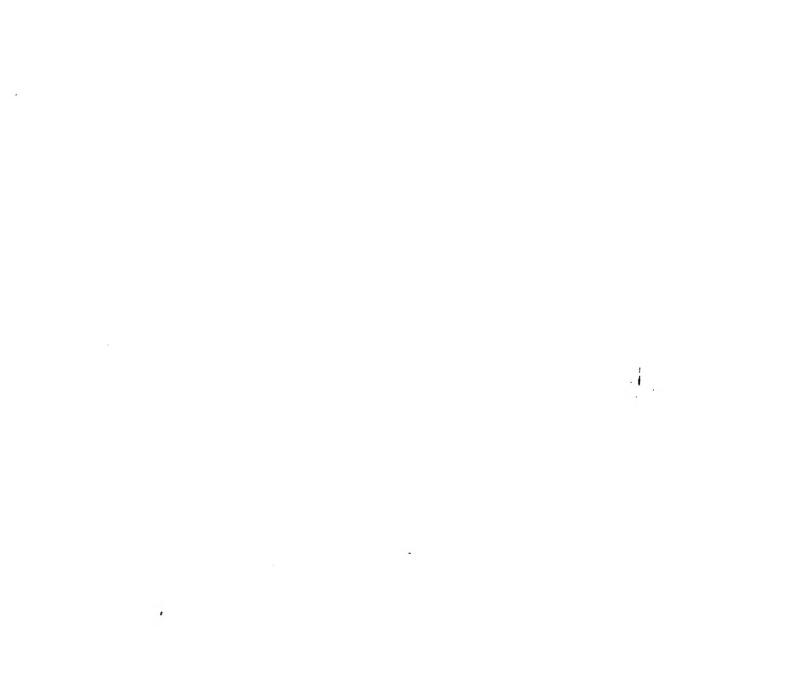


## Allustrated with Zen and Camera

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GHARLES W. EDDY, WARE, MASS,

1886.





# → WARE ILLUSTRATED, ► second volume.

PN presenting this our second volume of Ware Illustrated, we regret that we are not able to give illustrations of several important buildings, public and private, that are in process of erection. But Ware is growing so rapidly that to make a book of this kind strictly up to the times would require a new edition every few months.

Since the first volume was issued, three years ago, there have been new dwellings containing about one hundred tenements erected. The Village Improvement Society has put in more than a mile of concrete walks; the corporations have all added new buildings to their plants, greatly increasing their valuation. Other improvements are noticed in their appropriate places in this work.

Ware, December, 1886.

THE PUBLISHER.



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#### TOWN HALL.

ARE has reason to be, and no doubt is proud of her new Town Hall, erected in 1885–6 at a cost of forty thousand dollars, and dedicated November 11th, 1886.

The main hall is capable of seating comfortably seven hundred and sixty-seven—two hundred and nineteen of these being in the gallery. The finish and coloring are in fine taste, giving a rich and elegant appearance seldom seen in a building of this kind. There is a large stage, with convenient dressing rooms and a fine set of scenery.

In the basement are rooms for the officers of the town, a fireproof vault, the District Court room, lock-up, toilet rooms and boiler rooms, the whole building being heated by steam.

The building committee, under whose direction this edifice was erected, were Charles D. Gilbert, Charles E. Stevens, Philip L. Keefe, William C. Eaton, Frederick D. Gilmore; architects, Hartwell & Richardson of Boston; builder, Herbert P. Cummings of Ware.

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## MAIN STREET.

AIN STREET from the west presents a much improved appearance in the past few years. The block at the right, erected in 1880 by Levi W. Robinson, adding its full share to this effect. As there seems to be no other direction in which trade can go it is working westward as fast as good business blocks are erected. We do not need to enumerate the business carried on here, as the signs speak for themselves. The block is now owned by C. Hitchcock.

The stores in the next three blocks have all, but one, changed hands within the past year.





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## NORTH STREET GORNER.

TO THE THE TANK THE TANK THE TANK

ORTH STREET corner and vicinity have greatly changed in the past few years. This block, built by John II. Storrs in 1880–1, contains with a one-story addition in the rear, five commodious stores. In the second story are several offices and the rooms occupied by the two Ware bands.

A few rods to the left of what is shown in this picture, partially on the site of the old hotel barn, John II. Storrs has now in process of erection his new hotel, which promises to be by far the finest business block in town. On the first floor are three stores besides the hotel office, with plate glass windows and all modern conveniences. The block is three stories high with circular towers at each end. The front is to be of Philadelphia pressed brick, granite trimmings and iron balcony.

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#### WARE NATIONAL BANK.

HE Ware National Bank building was erected for the Hampshire Manufacturers' Bank in 1825, which was incorporated in February of the same year with a capital of one hundred thousand dollars. It was changed to the Ware National Bank in December, 1864, and now has a capital of three hundred thousand dollars. William Hyde has been connected with the bank either as cashier or president for fifty-three years.

The Savings Bank building, designed expressly for banking purposes, was erected in 1881. The Savings bank was organized in 1850. The number of depositors now are five thousand two hundred and eighty-six, their deposits amounting to two million four hundred and twenty four thousand five hundred and ninety-five dollars. William Hyde has been president of the bank since its organization. Frederick D. Gilmore was elected treasurer December, 1885.

The building at the left, twenty by fifty-six feet, was erected in 1883.







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#### HAMPSHIRE HOUSE & MUSIG HALL.

AMPSHIRE HOUSE block, with Music Hall block in the rear and other buildings connected, occupies about eighty-five feet on Main street and two hundred and twenty-five feet on Bank street, and was built by Joseph Hartwell in 1867, since which time the Post Office has occupied the store at the east end.

The first hotel ever in town was built on this site in 1730. The first town meeting was held in this house in 1742.

Next to the Hampshire House on the right is one of the oldest business blocks in town. At the left is seen the French Catholic Church, built in 1872.



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#### LIBRARY AND GHAPEL.

HE Library building of the Young Men's Library Association, which was incorporated in 1872, was dedicated July 19th, 1881. It is built of brick laid in red mortar, the trimmings being of Portland brown stone and Philadelphia moulded brick; the steps and buttress are Fitzwilliam granite. The basement under the whole front is finished for a reading room. The book room has a capacity for twenty-five thousand volumes. It is finished in brown ash with galleries on the front and east side. On the left of the entrance is a natural history room, where there is a fine collection of mounted birds of this locality, and a large variety of other curiosities.

Next to this building is the chapel of the East Congregational Society, built in 1881 and dedicated January 1st, 1882. It is a model of neatness and convenience.



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#### HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING.

HE first action of this town upon the subject of schools as appears by the records was in January, 1757. In 1702 "Voted to Raise twelve pounds for Skoling. Voted that Eatch Quarter shall skool out there part within the year or be forfit." In 1850 a grammar school was established, and in 1853 the high school was established and kept in the town hall building, until it was burned in 1867, except the fall terms which were held for some years at Ware Center.

The present high school building was erected in 1848 and rebuilt in 1869 at a cost of five thousand seven hundred and sixty-one dollars.

There are now twenty-four schools in town, eighteen of them in the village, employing twenty-six teachers with about nine hundred pupils.



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## GRAY'S BLOGK.

RAY'S BLOCK, situated on the west side of Nenemeseck Square was built in 1884, and is one of the most substantial, well built blocks in town. On the first floor there are two commodious stores, with a basement running across the south side of the building. The second story is finished for offices, society rooms, etc., while in the third story are four tenements.



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# NENAMESEGK PARK.

IIIS little park although small, being but about one hundred feet long and fifty wide, is a thing of beauty and a joy to the hundreds whose eyes rest upon it daily. In the very heart of the business of the town, with its grateful shade and sparkling fountain, it is a refreshing spot. The trees were set out and the fence and fountain placed here probably in 1856, as we find on the records of a town meeting November 6th, 1855, "It was voted that the Village Improvement Association do make such improvements under the direction and advice of the selectmen as shall be deemed proper by them." The work was accomplished by subscription through the agency of the association. In 1882 the curbing and concrete walk were put around the park.



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#### THE OTIS GOMPANY.

HE Otis Company was organized in 1839, and incorporated in 1840 with a capital of \$500,000. At that time the employes of the company numbered 211, their monthly earnings averaging about \$2,665. The average monthly product was about 62,000 yards of drills, sheetings and jeans. At present the company have in their two weaving mills at Ware 20,736 spindles, and 662 looms, producing daily 31,000 yards of checks, denims and stripes. Including the underwear mill there are 32,752 spindles in operation, giving employment to about 1,450 hands, with a weekly pay roll of \$9,000.

In 1865 the company introduced the manufacture of cotton hosiery, and began by producing about 300 dozens of white stockings per day; in later years colors were introduced, and especially a line of women's and men's underwear, until in 1886 they have reached a daily product of 650 dozens of underwear in bleached, fancies, and lisle-thread, and 185 dozens of hose and half-hose, from about 1,000 heads of knitting machines.

The Palmer Mill property at Three Rivers is also a part of the Otis Company's plant.



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# ABOVE EAST STREET BRIDGE.

OOKING North from the East street bridge the scenery is most picturesque. On the right the old canal with its rustic bridge, in the center the rocky island on the east bank of the river, while at the left the water comes pouring over the dam and rushing down the rough river bed, falling seventy feet in going as many rods.

The dam which holds in reserve the great water power of the town was built in 1880 and is fifty feet further down stream than the old one. The area of water caused by this dam covers about one hundred and thirty-six acres and extends up the river nearly two miles, furnishing a fine place for pleasure boating.

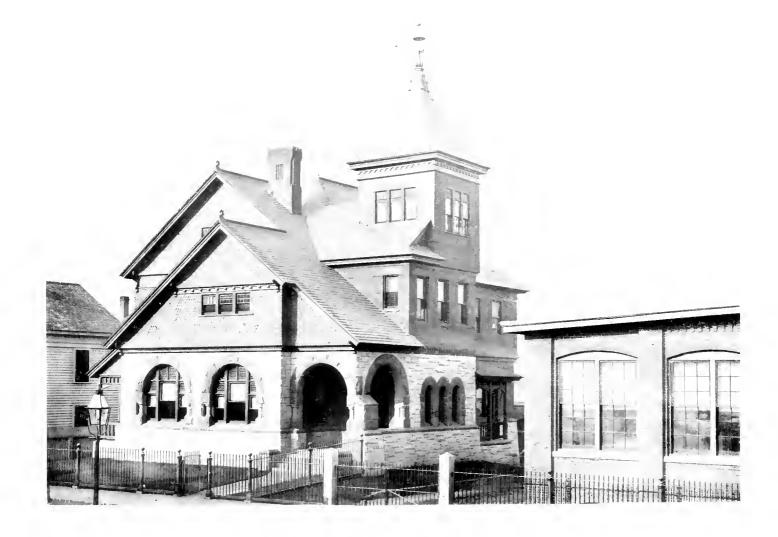




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# THE GEORGE H. GILBERT MFG. 60.

HIS corporation, unlike most manufacturing concerns, has its headquarters at its factories, and not at the great commercial centers. The office of the company, erected in 1885, is a model of good taste and judgment in the beauty of design and elegance of finish, as well as in its convenience. The hall vestibule and rear office are finished in black walnut with sheathing of the same surmounted by an ornate border of Lincrusta Walton, while the walls and ceilings are decorated in dark oil shades. In the front of the building is the room occupied by the officers of the corporation. This room is finished in gray oak, with heavy paneled ceilings of the same, while an elaborate carved fireplace produces a homelike effect. The gem of the building is a small private reception room opening from the front office. This is finished in cherry, with a floor of polished birch inlaid with a great variety of choice woods. In the second story are the pattern and draughting rooms.



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# SUMMER SCENE.

ARE abounds with picturesque beauty throughout the whole length and breadth of the town. The rugged hills on the east, the quiet valleys, the beautiful drives beside the still waters and the ever varied landscape are sources of interest and joy to every beholder.

In this picture there is perhaps no more of beauty than may be found in hundreds of places within the borders of the town, but this will serve as a hint of the many lovely spots that are all about us.







### GHARLES A. STEVENS & 60.

HE original mill of this company was purchased of the assignees of the Hampshire Manufacturing Company in 1841 by Gilbert & Stevens. Upon the dissolution of the firm in 1851 Charles  $\Lambda$ . Stevens took the old mill and added another story and about seventy feet in length. The original portion of the old mill was built in 1825. It now contains twelve sets of woolen machinery, ninety broad looms and is producing white and opera flannels and ladies dress goods.

In January, 1872, Mr. Stevens associated with himself under the firm name of Charles A. Stevens & Co., his son, Charles E. Stevens. They employ about one hundred and seventy-five hands.

In April, 1885, the building near the bridge was destroyed by fire, and in its place has been erected a substantial brick building, forty by eighty feet, three stories high. It is used for a wool house and machine shop.



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# THE LOVER'S LEAP.

NE of the finest gems of scenery to be found is situated just back of the residence of Charles A. Stevens, perhaps best seen as a whole from across the river near the finishing department of the Otis Company, and is seen by hundreds who daily pass to their work.

The projecting ledge that turns the course of the river at this point is called the Lover's Leap from the romantic legend concerning the attempted suicide of a young lady whose parents objected to her continuing to receive attentions from a party objectionable to them.

When there is a light snow there may be seen at the point of the ledge the likeness of a face that has been called the "Witch of the Woods."









#### THE RESERVOIR.

SYSTEM of water works to supply the village with pure water has been put in this year at a cost of about \$80,000, under the personal supervision of Engineer F. L. Fuller of Boston. A well was dug near West Main Street by Contractor F. E. Shaw of Valley Falls, R. I., supplying 620,000 gallons of water daily in the dry season. The water is forced by a Deane steam pump, having a capacity of 1,500,000 gallons in twenty four hours, to the reservoir, capable of holding a million and a half gallons and situated nearly a mile from the village on Church Street, which was built by F. A. Snow of Providence, R. I., employing about sixty men five months in the work. There are nearly seven miles of pipe, with fifty hydrants for fire purposes.

The building at the pumping station is handsome and convenient, built by Aldrich & Hills of this town. The Water Commissioners, under whose direction the whole work has been done, were C. C. Hitchcock, E. H. Guild and T. C. Gleason.





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## THE ROCK HOUSE.

the summit, or narrows, is what is called The Rock House; a vast pile of overhanging rocks with others in front of them. It is a fine place for a summer picnic, the tables may be arranged under trees near by or in the shadows of the great rocks, which in case of a sudden shower afford complete shelter however severe the storm may be.

On the way to this place one of the finest views of the Ware River Valley may be obtained; it is said by some who have travelled extensively among the scenery of the Old World to be equal to anything they had ever seen.

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## WARE GENTER.

EVENTY years ago Ware Center was not only the center in name, but was the center of the business of the town as well. There is now but little business except farming carried on there. In 1750 it was voted to build the first meeting house in town but there is no record when it was finished, if ever. The present church was built in 1800 and was moved to its present site and remodeled in 1843.

The large two-story house near the left of the picture was the Old Tavern where the selectmen used to repair after town meeting to count the votes.

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